Claims

1.   Polysiloxanes characterized by the following structural elements per molecule:

one element of formula $(H_3C)_3-Si-$ (I),

one element of formula $-O-Si(CH_3)_3$ (II),

2 to 200, elements in arbitrary order which are either identical or different from each other selected from the group consisting of formulae

$-O-Si(CH_3)[CH(CH_3)R^1]-$ (IIIa),

$-O-Si(CH_3)(CH_2-CH_2-R^1)-$ (IIIb),

$-O-Si(CH_3)[C(=CH_2)R^1]-$ (IIIc), and

$-O-Si(CH_3)(CH=CH-R^1)-$ (IIId);

2 to 200, elements in arbitrary order which are either identical or different from each other selected from the group consisting of formulae

$-O-Si(CH_3)[CH(CH_3)R^2]-$ (IVa),

$-O-Si(CH_3)(CH_2-CH_2-R^2)-$ (IVb),

$-O-Si(CH_3)[C(=CH_2)R^2]-$ (IVc), and

$-O-Si(CH_3)(CH=CH-R^2)-$ (IVd);

optionally 1 to 100, elements in arbitrary order which are either identical or different from each other selected from the group consisting of formulae

$-O- Si(CH_3)[CH(CH_3)R^3]-$ (Va),

$-O-Si(CH_3)(CH_2-CH_2-R^3)-$ (Vb),

$-O-Si(CH_3)[C(=CH_2)R^3]-$ (Vc), and

$-O-Si(CH_3)(CH=CH-R3)-$ (Vd);

and optionally 1 - 20 elements in arbitrary order of formula $-O-SiH(CH_3)-$ (VI)

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wherein R^1 is a UV light absorbing group;

R^2 is hydrogen or a lipophilic group;

R^3 is a group which is able to form ionogenic or hydrogen bonds.

2. Polysiloxanes according to claim 1 wherein the number of elements of formulae III is 5 to 80.

3. Polysiloxanes according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein no elements of formulae V are present.

4. Polysiloxanes according to anyone of claims 1 - 3 wherein no elements of formula VI are present.

5. Polysiloxanes according to anyone of claims 1 - 4 wherein all substituents R^1 are identical.

6. Polysiloxanes according to anyone of claims 1 - 4 wherein at least two different types of substituents R^1 are present.

7. The use of a polysiloxane according to anyone of claims 1 - 6 as a sunscreen.

8. The use of a polysiloxane according to claim 7 for the protection of human skin or human hair.

9. Compositions comprising polysiloxanes according to anyone of claims 1 - 6 and at least one pharmaceutically and/or cosmetically acceptable excipient.

10. Compositions according to claim 9 comprising in addition at least one other UV light protective agent.

11. Compositions according to claims 9 and 10 for topical application.

12. The invention substantially as described hereinbefore especially with reference to the Examples.

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